

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1, 8, 14 and 15 are requested to be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 16 and 17 are currently being amended.

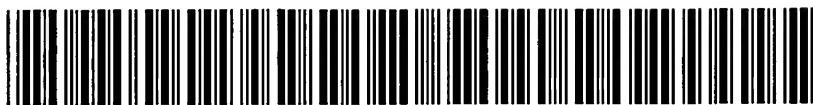
This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 10, 11, 16 and 17 are now pending in this application with claims 10 and 11 having already been allowed.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 8 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly obvious over Aota et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,954,362) in view of Isaac, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,613,794). Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 8, 14 and 15. For at least the reasons set forth herein, this rejection, to the extent it applies to amended claims 16 and 17, has been traversed.

Neither of the cited references or any combination thereof discloses, teaches or suggests the subject matter of claims 16 and 17. Specifically, there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in either reference of "R-chamfered and straight portions formed with the shank, the R-chamfered portion being located at the end of the shank" as recited in the claims. Accordingly, claims 16 and 17 are allowable over the cited references and their rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.



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